# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5352
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2000
EXPORT OF ONION
ANANTRAO GUDHE

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from onion growers in Maharashtra seeking enhancement of export quota and protection against falling prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken to protect the interest of onion growers;

(c) the details of onion export made during 1999-2000 in terms of quantity, export earnings and their comparison with the previous two years; and

(d) the details of fresh policy initiatives recently taken/under consideration for encouraging production of onion and various export potential?

## Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Representations have been received from time to time from onion growers in Maharashtra as well as the Maharashtra Government for removal of restrictions on export of onion in the interest of farmers and exporters. The Government, after assessing the crop prospects of onion and considering the requests from farmers and traders, permitted, through designated canalising agencies, exports of 100,000 MTs of onions of all varieties during the period 1.12.99 till 31.1.2000 as also export of 100,000 MTs of onion of all varieties during the period 9.2.2000 till 31.3.2000. The Government has also permitted export of 50,000 MTs of onion of all varieties during the period April-May, 2000. Apart from this, the Central Government procured onion, under its Market Intervention Scheme(MIS) in Maharashtra from 20.1.2000 to 29.2.2000 in association with the Government of Maharashtra.

(c ) Exports of onions, both quantity and value during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 have been as follows: Qty: MTs Value: Rs. crores

| Year | Exports Qty | Value |
|---|---|---|
| 1997-98 | 333349.0 | 202.46 |
| 1998-99 | 215694.0 | 176.05 |
| 1999-2000 | 98696.0 | 89.06 |

(April 1999-August 1999)

Source : DGCI&S,. Calcutta
Provisional

(d) There is no specific scheme for increasing production of vegetables to encourage export. However, the Government has approved a scheme on integrated development of vegetables including root and tuber crops for increasing production and productivity of vegetable crops both for domestic and export markets. The scheme includes programme on seed production, productivity improvement, integrated insect, pest and disease management, transfer of technology including training and visits, demonstration of technology, mechanisation and on-farm post-harvest handling. In order to achieve a sustainable growth in exports of onions, Government is considering a long-term export policy for onion that would ensure continuity in exports.